

USSN 09/950 013

IN THE CLAIMS

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of chemical vapor deposition, comprising flowing coating gas into in a preheat conduit disposed in and along a length of a heated coating chamber along a length thereof, heating said coating gas as it flows through said preheat conduit, and discharging the preheated coating gas into a gas distribution conduit in said coating chamber, and discharging the coating gas from the gas distribution conduit through a plurality of gas discharge openings at an opposing manifold wall having a plurality of gas flow openings out of alignment with said gas discharge openings such that there is no line-of-sight gas flow path from said gas distributon openings to said gas flow openings.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 including heating said coating chamber by disposing it in a heated retort.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 including discharging the preheated coating gas at a lower end of said preheat conduit to the gas distribution conduit.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 including preheating the coating gas before it enters said preheat conduit.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the coating gas is preheated in a gas manifold disposed outside said coating chamber upstream of said preheat conduit.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 including also discharging the preheated coating gas from the preheat conduit through a bleed opening above said lower end of said preheat conduit into the gas distribution conduit.

USSN 09/950 013

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 including discharging the preheated coating gas from said gas distribution conduit disposed to each of a plurality of coating zones along a length of said coating chamber.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 including discharging the preheated coating gas from the gas distribution conduit at a mid-point of each said coating zone.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 including exhausting spent coating gas from each coating zone through openings in a baffle disposed about each coating zone.

29. (Original) The method of claim 19 including reflecting radiant heat from said coating chamber back toward said coating chamber.

30. (Previously presented) A method of chemical vapor deposition, comprising flowing coating gas in a preheat conduit into disposed in and along a length of a heated coating chamber, discharging the coating gas into a gas distribution conduit disposed about said preheat conduit in said coating chamber, and supplying said coating gas from said gas distribution conduit to a plurality of coating zones along a length of said coating chamber including discharging the coating gas from the gas distribution conduit through gas discharge openings at an opposing manifold wall disposed between each coating zone and said gas distribution conduit and flowing the coating gas through a plurality of gas flow openings disposed in each manifold wall to each coating zone with the gas flow openings being out of alignment with said gas discharge openings such that there is no line-of-sight gas flow path from said gas discharge openings to said gas flow openings at each coating zone.

USSN 09/950 013

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 including discharging the coating gas from the gas distribution conduit at a mid-point of each said coating zone.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Original) The method of claim 30 including exhausting spent coating gas from each coating zone through openings in a baffle disposed about each coating zone.

34. (Previously presented) A method of chemical vapor deposition, comprising flowing coating gas in a preheat conduit disposed in and along a length of a heated coating chamber, heating the coating gas as it flows through the preheat conduit, and discharging the preheated coating gas from a lower end thereof into a gas distribution conduit in the coating chamber, including also discharging the preheated coating gas from the preheat conduit through a bleed opening above the lower end of said preheat conduit into the gas distribution conduit.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 including discharging the preheated coating gas from the gas distribution conduit to each of a plurality of coating zones along a length of the coating chamber.

36. (Currently amended) A method of chemical vapor deposition, comprising flowing coating gas in a gas distribution conduit in [[the]] a coating chamber, discharging the coating gas laterally from the gas distribution conduit to a manifold located laterally between the gas distribution conduit and a coating zone and having gas flow openings communicated to [[a]] the coating zone, and exhausting spent coating gas from the coating zone through openings in a baffle ~~disposed about~~ located laterally outwardly of the coating zone.

USSN 09/950 013

37.(Currently amended) A method of chemical vapor deposition, comprising flowing coating gas in a gas distribution conduit in a heated coating chamber [[and]], discharging the coating gas from the gas distribution conduit laterally through gas discharge openings at an opposing manifold wall of a manifold disposed laterally between a coating zone and said gas distribution conduit, and flowing the coating gas through a plurality of gas flow openings disposed in the manifold wall to the coating zone with the gas flow openings being out of alignment with said gas discharge openings such that there is no line-of-sight gas flow path from said gas discharge openings to said gas flow openings at the coating zone.